SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area of the District	112,315 acres
Number of Parishes	50
Rateable Value 1/4/60	£250,320 0s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/61	£1,025 18s. 0d.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	9,904
Estimated mid-year Home Population	28,390
Census Population 1951	26,522

The district, which is agricultural in character, extends from the parish of Gamlingay in the West to Carlton parish in the East, a distance of some 30 miles, and has a common boundary with parts of the counties of Huntingdon, Bedford, Hertford, Essex and Suffolk.

It is favourable to arable farming which varies with the location, from the market gardening district of the lower greensand outcrop in the North-West to the chalk marls around Melbourn and Meldreth which supports fruit growing, to the corn and sugar beet area of the chalk hills to the South and East.

Industries in the area are mostly connected either directly or indirectly with agriculture. There are exceptions however; Sawston has industries of a divergent nature and comparatively large numbers of workers are employed in leather and paper manufacture. There is every indication that this parish will become urbanized as fresh industries are established.

Birth Rate	19.9
(Corrected)	21.7
Death Rate	11.6
(Corrected)	9.9
Infant Mortality Rate (Per thousand live births)	12.3

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor C. Hagger
Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. Pepper
Councillors:

Andrews, H. B.
Barnes, A.
Binney, R. C. C. J.
Bowen, Mrs. G.
Bowers, C. H.
Bullman, E. W., J.P.
Chambers, F.
Chamberlain, J. J.
Dyball, E. F.
Fordham, G. R. B., J.P.
Gray, Miss L. M.
Greenwood, C. O.
Horsford, F. W.
Jackson, R. C.
Lay, J. H., M.B.E., M.C.
Malthouse, H. F.
May, S. W. H.
Morley, E. W.
Murfitt, F. W., J.P.
Nield, R. H.
Noble, J. W.
Parkinson, Mrs. G. B.
Randall, P., J.P.
Rogers, Mrs. H.
Saggers, A. C.
Taylor, S. A., J.P.
Thomson, D. W.
Vinter, Mrs. M. M. K.
Webb, J. D.
Wiseman, E. J.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:	J. Drummond, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector:	R. J. Hoyle, M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector:	P. Cocks, M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector:	P. Allston, M.R.S.H.
Clerk:	Mrs. N. E. Matthews.

To the Chairman and Members
of
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1960 prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 3/1961 dated 10th April, 1961.

Vital Statistics

It is surprising, in view of the trend of recent years and the great amount of new building taking place in the area, to report a fall of 110 in the estimated population. This fall would seem to be caused by the closure of the U.S.A.F. Hospital at Wimpole Park. From the preliminary report of the 1961 Census it will be seen that in the ten intercensal years the population of the area has increased by 10.6 per cent. This compares very well with the 13.8 per cent increase of the county as a whole and 5.3 per cent nationally.

The uncorrected birth rate rose by 1.7 to 19.9 per thousand, substantially above the national rate of 17.1. Even more satisfactory, however, is the fact that the infant mortality rate of 12.3 per thousand, while not as low as that of last year, was considerably below the national figure of 22.0 per thousand. The death rate dropped slightly to 11.6 per thousand (uncorrected) from the 12 of last year.

Infectious Diseases

Although there was a considerable reduction in the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, it is particularly tragic to report the occurrence of a death from Salmonella food poisoning. Every year many cases of food poisoning occur where the patient has only a few days unpleasant illness, but in the very young, the old, the frail or the debilitated, a serious and dangerous condition may result. It is only very rarely that death occurs in a healthy adult and this surely must serve as a salutory reminder to everyone concerned with the handling of food, whether they be producer, shop-keeper, housewife or consumer. This was an unnecessary death, just as the mild attacks are unnecessary and could be avoided by the development and maintenance of hygienic standards.

The provision of modern amenities such as a piped water supply and water carriage sewage will not, in themselves, prevent the occurrence of such outbreaks, and, indeed, some authorities believe that these developments may have the reverse effect. People must be educated to develop the highest standards of hygiene and every worker in the public health field must be ready to teach and offer help and advice every time the opportunity offers.

The occurrence of undulant fever, caused by the consumption of untreated milk produced in the area, highlighted a condition which many believe much more common than notifications would suggest. While the illness caused may be severe and debilitating, it has few pathognomic symptoms and may often be diagnosed as influenza. In practically every case the source of infection is the dairy cow and except for workers in special situations, the means of transmission is unpasteurized milk. Although vaccination of the dairy cow may prevent the animal from developing Abortus fever it will not prevent the organism—*Brucella abortus*—from remaining and multiplying in the udder and intermittently infecting the milk. Heat treatment of the milk which effectively destroys the organism, is the recognised, and indeed, the only statutory way of controlling the infection, therefore, the risk of developing the disease is run only by the small number of people who drink unpasteurized milk. At the present time a veterinary survey is being undertaken to try to determine the extent of Brucella infection. Only after this has been completed will there be any possibility of the formation of a national policy to eliminate this infection from the country's dairy herds.

Sanitary Circumstances

This has been a year of great staffing difficulties for the Public Health Department. In 1959 I reported that the staff were finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the demands placed upon them and that the position was unlikely to improve in the future. In February one of the additional public

health inspectors was involved in a motor accident and the department was without his services for eight months. As a result it was necessary to deal only with the routine work of the department and curtail even further the amount of meat inspection, so that during the year it was possible to inspect only 71 % of the meat slaughtered. It is estimated that as a result of the reduction from 100 per cent meat inspection some 6 tons of unfit meat was marketed from this district during the year. It is astonishing, in view of these circumstances, to note that the number of visits made by the inspectors had increased by almost 600. This increase was mainly occasioned by visits concerned with housing and survey work in connection with the development of sewerage schemes for the villages. The sewering of Gamlingay is now completed and the work in Meldreth is well under way. Schemes are now in the process of preparation for Sawston, Bassingbourn, Kneesworth and Balsham and one can only hope that financial restrictions will not delay their implementation as many other villages are impatiently jostling in the queue of priority awaiting their turn.

During the year the emphasis in housing was for the erection of houses for old people and the development of old persons units in Linton and Sawston was carried to fruition. These units—the first of their kind in the district—have, as a feature, the provision of a warden who has a duty to keep a watching brief over the old people and, without interfering in their daily lives, be ready to offer or arrange help when needed. Unfortunately these provisions have only scratched the surface of the problem. The consultant geriatrician for the area has expressed his amazement and concern at the number of old people living in really appalling slum conditions in the rural areas of the county. These old people have often deteriorated to beyond the state when they can be said to be able to look after themselves and are in need of intensive medical and social rehabilitation.

In order to secure the removal of one old person who was not only living in insanitary conditions but also in a house in danger of collapse, it was necessary to obtain a magistrates order but fortunately the formal service of the order was able to be avoided by the excellent work of the family doctor in persuading the old person to move voluntarily.

It is these old people—many of whom are reluctant to move—who form a hard core of occupiers of slum property. Nevertheless satisfactory progress is still being made in the slum clearance programme. There still remains, however, some 22 families living in ex-service hutments and the council is anxious to rehouse these families during 1961, although it is recognised that many of the families will not be, to say the least, the best of tenants.

The amount of work carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department has been quite exceptional and every member deserves the highest praise for the way they have carried out their duties quietly and efficiently, without complaint, in the face of the loss of an inspector for fully half of the year.

I wish also to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continuing support and encouragement during 1960.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES DRUMMOND.

September, 1961.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations)

LIVE BIRTHS	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	258	290	548
Illegitimate	10	9	19
Totals	268	299	567
Birth rate per thousand estimated population			19.9
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.09)			21.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			17.1

STILL BIRTHS	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	5	2	7
Rate per thousand live and still births			12.2
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)			19.7

DEATHS	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
	166	165	331
Death rate per thousand estimated population			11.6
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.80)			9.9
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)			11.5

INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of infants under one year of age.)

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Legitimate	3 (2)	2 (1)	5 (3)
Illegitimate	2 (1)	—	2 (1)
Totals	5 (3)	2 (1)	7 (4)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks and under one week of age are shown in brackets.)

Infant mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	12.3
Infant mortality rate. (England and Wales)	22.0
Neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	7.05
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	7.05
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	19.2
Legitimate infant mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	9.1
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	105.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.3%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per thousand live and still births	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	54
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	3
Deaths from whooping cough	Nil
Deaths from measles	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	11
Deaths from influenza	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
*BIRTH RATE	16.3	16.8	18.0	18.0	18.1	19.9
*DEATH RATE	11.8	12.7	11.3	11.4	12.0	11.6
INFANT MORTALITY RATE	19.8 (9)	12.8 (6)	21.7 (11)	19.5 (10)	9.8 (5)	12.3 (7)

* The above rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Under 1 year	5	2	7
1 and under 2	2	—	2
2 and under 5	—	—	—
5 and under 15	1	—	1
15 and under 25	4	—	4
25 and under 35	5	1	6
35 and under 45	2	4	6
45 and under 55	6	6	12
55 and under 65	22	21	43
65 and under 75	49	40	89
75 and over	70	91	161
Totals	166	165	331

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

" The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health (Order 1951 " provided for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. Under present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Public Health Inspectors

Mr. Hoyle continues as Senior Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Cocks and Mr. Allston.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water supplies, and all necessary examination in cases of infectious disease.

Hospitals

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cambridge City Isolation Hospital. The old Poor Law Institution at Linton is now shared between the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board and the Cambridgeshire County Council; the former having the use of eighty beds for the chronic sick, the latter 95 beds for use under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASE) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of ' Food Poisoning ' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include ' carriers ' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

Annual case incidence and deaths, 1950-60

	Years											
Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	Total	1960
Measles												
Cases	30	522	116	676	13	203	350	74	370	854	3208	114
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough												
Cases	64	181	105	61	129	58	86	215	7	38	944	36
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1960

The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year fell greatly as there was no repetition of the 1959 epidemic of measles. From the trend of notifications it would seem that the traditional biennial cycle of measles epidemic is to be expected.

There was a reduction in the number of cases of scarlet fever notified. Although none of the cases were serious, in a milk producing area it is still essential to follow up notifications and, in fact, several of the cases notified during the year occurred in the families of dairy workers. Investigation of all the members of the families was carried out to ensure that there was no risk of the spread of infection.

Dysentery

Only eleven cases of dysentery occurred during the year sporadically throughout the district. All cases were mild and no spread of infection occurred.

Food Poisoning

Unfortunately the same cannot be reported of the eleven cases of food poisoning. Eight of these occurred in a short sharp outbreak which resulted in the death of one man aged 60. The infecting organism in all these cases was *Salmonella typhimurium* and generally the infection was the unpleasant but mild illness associated with this type of infection. In the fatal case, however, the symptoms were severe and did not respond to treatment. Post mortem examination revealed that the cause of death was asphyxiation by the inhalation of vomitus while in a weakened state. As the diagnosed was not established until after death and the other cases were discovered in retrospect, investigations failed to reveal the source of infection.

Undulant Fever

In July an airman in R.A.F. Duxford was notified as suffering from undulant fever and investigation revealed that this patient drank unpasteurized Channel Island milk bought from a dairy in Chesterton Rural District area but supplied and farm bottled by a producer in Sawston. About the same time a case also occurred in the Chesterton Rural District area and it was discovered that unpasteurized Channel Island milk from the same source was being consumed by the patient. Examination of the milk from this supplier revealed that it was infected with the organism *Brucella abortus* and arrangements were made for all milk from the infected herd to be heat treated.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1960

Age in years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Acute Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	Measles	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infection	Totals
Under 1 year	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	5
1 year—	—	3	—	—	10	1	—	14
2 years—	2	3	—	—	8	1	—	14
3 years—	2	3	—	—	10	—	—	15
4 years—	8	4	—	—	17	—	—	29
5—9 years	37	14	—	—	59	4	—	114
10—14 years	10	6	—	—	6	1	—	23
15—24 years	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
25 and over	1	2	—	—	—	3	—	6
Totals	63	36	—	—	114	11	—	224
1959 Totals	98	38	—	—	854	10	—	1000

Age in years	Acute Pneumonia	Acute Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Totals
Under 5 years	—	1	—	1	—	2
5—14 years	—	—	—	2	—	2
15—44 years	1	—	1	6	—	8
45—64 years	4	—	2	2	—	8
65 and over	2	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	7	1	3	11	—	22
1959 Totals	9	1	1	6	2	19

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year four cases were notified for the first time. Ten respiratory cases and one non-respiratory case previously notified elsewhere were transferred to the district. However on balance at the end of the year there were five fewer cases on the register.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

	Respiratory Male	*Respiratory* Female	*Non-Respiratory* Male	*Non-Respiratory* Female	*Total* Male	*Total* Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at comemnce-ment of year	38	26	3	3	41	29
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations	1	1	1	1	2	2
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations:—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	6	4	1	—	7	4
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	16	13	—	1	16	14
6. Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year	29	18	5	3	34	21

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION

RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.60

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	*Non-Resp.*	*Resp.*	*Non-Resp.*	*Resp.*	*Non-Resp.*	
0—15	2	2	—	—	2	2	4
15—25	5	—	4	2	9	2	11
25—35	4	—	5	—	9	—	9
35—45	7	3	6	—	13	3	16
45—55	6	—	2	—	8	—	8
55—65	3	—	1	—	4	—	4
65 and over	2	—	—	1	2	1	3
TOTALS	29	5	18	3	47	8	55

An order was made under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1957 in respect of an old person living in insanitary conditions in a house which was in danger of collapse.

Its formal service, however, was avoided because the family doctor was able to persuade the old person to move voluntarily.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Summary of Visits and Inspections recorded during the year:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	3,955
Complaints Investigated	166
General re-inspections	34
Housing:	
General Inspections	219
Re-inspections	356
Infectious Diseases:	
General Investigations	112
Number of Premises Disinfected	1
Verminous Premises and Persons:	
Premises Disinfested	4
Water Supply:	
Inspections and Investigations	26
Visits re. Water Sampling	162
Visits re. Chlorination Tests	Nil
Milk and Dairies:	
Inspections of Dairies and Milk Stores	Nil
Milk Distributors	2
Visits re. Milk Sampling	Nil
Food and Drugs Act:	
Inspection of Food	10
Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses	523
Bakehouses	11
Catering Establishments	24
Ice-Cream premises	3
Other Food Premises	59
Public Houses	35
Food Conveying Vehicles	4
Shops Act Inspections	Nil
Factories Act:	
Inspections	12
Inspections re. Means of Fire Escape	3
Pet Shops	Nil
Moveable Dwellings	66
Public Cleansing, including Depot Visits	246
Drainage	638
Swimming Pool Inspection	3
Sewage Disposal, Including Surveys	358
Petroleum Storage Regulations	28
Miscellaneous Visits	68

HOUSING

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
Houses rendered reasonably fit after informal action	158

Proceedings under Housing Act 1957

Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
Houses demolished due to formal action:	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3
Houses demolished as a result of informal action	5
Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Section 17)	1
Undertakings in respect of houses represented as Unfit (Section 16):	
(a) Undertakings given by owners to make fit	Nil
(b) Undertakings given by owners not to use for human habitation	15
Buildings in respect of part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 18)	Nil
Houses made fit and Closing Orders or Undertakings cancelled	6
New cases of overcrowding	2
Overcrowding cases abated	2

Housing progress during the year ending 31.3.61

Bungalows erected by the Council	52
Houses erected by the Council	15
Dwellings erected by private enterprise	191
Total number of dwellings erected by the Council since 1945	1,753

The preponderance of dwellings erected by the Council during the year has been for the rehousing of old people, many of whom have been living in unfit premises. With an ageing population this aspect of rehousing must attain greater prominence and it is a matter of interest and satisfaction that the two groups of bungalows with attendant Wardens, built for the aged or slightly infirm person, are fulfilling a real need and the project is to be extended. An upsurge in the amount of private house building is evident and is likely to continue due to the increasing establishment of industry in the rural district, and the district's promixity to Cambridge city and to the fact that the sewering of the parishes gives a facility not generally hitherto enjoyed.

The improvement of existing properties in the district has continued and the public health department has been instrumental in effecting improvement to 169 dwellings. The Architect reports that 63 Standard Grants and 44 Discretionary Grants have been approved in the year.

Pockets of slum properties exist throughout the district, but their numbers are diminishing. When the " Town Plan " is produced in respect of Sawston Parish, further unfit dwellings can then be cleared. Twenty-six dwellings have been closed or demolished in the year but there still remains a residue of twenty-two families occupying ex-armed forces' hutments. The Council is striving to rehouse these by the end of 1961.

Moveable Dwellings

The new legislation governing the siting and control of caravans ushered in towards the year's end has had, as yet, little impact. The " standard conditions " governing their control are comprehensive and will do much to bring about improved conditions. The problem of caravan control in the rural district has not been particularly arduous although the future may show that where the need for sites for stationing small groups of caravans is required, the Council could best operate them. There are approximately 120 licensed caravans on some 60 sites.

Rent Act

The department was not required to take any action under this Act.

WATER SUPPLIES

The provision of a pure water supply and efficient distribution throughout the district is an undertaking of which the Council is justly proud.

The completion of the comprehensive scheme by bringing into operation the Dottrell Hall bore-hole now provides a piped water supply to all the fifty parishes in the district. The water supply is drawn from the four bore-holes and distributed through some 200 miles of mains. In addition approximately 46,000 gallons per day are supplied in bulk into three adjacent local authorities' areas, and in turn a slightly less amount is obtained from outside authorities for distribution to those areas of the district where distribution from Council bore-holes would be uneconomic.

Three of the four bore-holes are sunk into the chalk, and the water supply is of excellent quality and quantity. The fourth bore-hole at Croydon is sunk into the lower greensand stratum and the raw water has a high proportion of iron in solution. This is removed at the pumping station by pre-chlorination and sand filtration. All the water supplies in distribution are subjected to chlorination merely as a precautionary measure.

The supply to the extreme eastern side of the district is not entirely satisfactory due to poor pressure. Works are, however, in progress to obviate this.

The accompanying tables on water supplied, quality and numbers of properties served, are self-explanatory.

The public standpipes are few in number, and are being reduced as properties are connected to the main. The removal of all the standpipes would, however, cause hardship in cases where properties are in isolated locations some distance from a water main.

Systematic sampling for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination is made from the bore-holes and on the pipe lines. The four unsatisfactory samples as shown in the table resulted from water-main disturbances.

Many owners have been requested by the public health department to lay on piped water supplies to their dwellings, and formal notices were only resorted to in respect of seven properties.

No parish has suffered from a water shortage, despite the fact that there is an ever increasing demand for water.

RESULTS OF WATER SUPPLY SAMPLES

Type of Supply	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Public Piped supplies	100	4
Private supplies	16	41

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

A swimming bath at Gamlingay County School has been constructed by the combined efforts of scholars, teachers and parents, and will do much to help youngsters to acquire the art of swimming. It is hoped that this school has set an example for other schools to follow. The water is both filtered and chlorinated and samples subjected to bacteriological examination were satisfactory.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Particulars of Population and Numbers of Dwelling Houses supplied from Public Water Mains:—

Parish	Acreage	Population Census 1951	Number of dwellings (Rate Books) as at 31/3/61	Number of dwellings supplied as at 31/3/61	No. of dwellings supplied from Council st'dpipes	Source of Water Supply and quantity pumped 31/3/61
Sawston	1,898	2,133	1,108	1,098	14	Sawston bore (Chalk water) 33,817,000 gallons per year
Balsham ..	4,550	662	248	238	2	
Bartlow	377	73	27	26		
Carlton	2,415	266	55	52		
Castle Camps ..	3,184	509	194	182		Linton bore (Chalk water) 75,744,000 gallons per year.
Great Abington	1,588	503	194	193		
Hildersham ..	1,511	148	65	53		
Horseheath ..	1,922	328	135	126		
Linton	3,817	1,608	666	640		
Little Abington ..	1,309	280	114	97	3	
Shudy Camps ..	2,362	240	91	89		
Weston Colville	3,235	334	131	112		
West Wickham	2,931	327	121	109	1	
West Wratting	3,543	424	143	129		
Abington Pigotts	1,237	142	45	43		
Arrington ..	1,407	648	125	125		
Babraham ..	2,387	226	117	—		
Barrington ..	2,282	497	203	177		
Bassingbourn ..	3,204	2,554	646 (184)	563		
Croydon	2,734	223	77	73		
Duxford ..	3,239	1,469	363	277		
Fowlmere ..	2,272	769	184	139		Croydon bore (Lower greensand water) and Dotterel bore (Chalk water) 200,267,000 gallons per year
Foxton	1,752	567	233	198		
Gamlingay ..	4,460	1,575	573	495		
Guilden Morden	2,599	552	214	191		
Hatley	2,200	150	54	51		
Hinxton	1,564	274	101	68		
Ickleton	2,700	613	225	106		
Kneesworth ..	879	133	34	18		
Litlington ..	2,172	778	224	197		
Little Gransden	1,920	280	87	87		
Longstowe ..	1,544	240	67	60		
Melbourn ..	4,480	1,408	653	531		
Meldreth ..	2,513	654	309	290		
Orwell	2,083	525	219	215		
Pampisford ..	1,607	340	112	69	2	
Shepreth	1,318	438	176	144		
Shingay cum Wendy	1,791	119	45	45		
Steeple Morden ..	3,846	642	250	191		Lea Valley Water Co. 469,000 gals. per year. (Supplied to part of St. Morden only.
Tadlow	1,743	107	34	27		
Thriplow ..	2,501	386	248 (110)	65		
Whaddon ..	1,515	196	137 (58)	130		
Wimpole ..	2,468	239	64	49		
Whittlesford ..	1,976	809	363 (31)	212		
Great Eversden ..	1,400	175	62	57		Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board (Lower greensand water) 6,205,000 gallons per year.
Kingston ..	1,907	158	58	55		
Little Eversden ..	790	236	104	99		
Great Chishill ..	2,542	332	118	117	2	Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Chalk water) 5,275,000 gallons per year.
Heydon	1,425	151	64	63	9	
Little Chishill ..	1,216	82	31	20		

Figures in brackets are included in the main figure and represent R.A.F. dwellings.

REPRESENTATIVE RESULTS OF WATER ANALYSES FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES

Examination	Linton Bore. Chalk Water	Sawston Bore. Chalk Water	Croydon Bore. Lower Greensand Water (after iron removal)	Fowlmere Dottrell Hall Bore. Chalk Water	Chesterton & St. Ives Joint Water Board. Lower Greensand Water (after iron removal)	Saffron Walden R.D.C. Chalk Water	Lee Valley Water Co. Chalk Water
Physical Characteristics	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very slight deposit, turbid, odourless	Good	Good
Reaction (pH value)	7.1	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.4	7.1	7.1
Parts per 100,000							
Chloride..	1.9	2.6	3.05	2.2	7.6	1.75	2.35
Ammonia (Free & Saline) ..	absent	0.0070	0.0682	absent	0.0824	absent	absent
Ammonia (Albuminoid) ..	0.0004	0.0032	absent	absent	0.0004	absent	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37°C	0.0245	0.0429	0.0195	0.0198	0.0299	0.0275	0.0475
Nitrates (Expressed as Nitrogen)	0.75	0.70	absent	0.80	absent	0.50	0.45
Nitrites	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Total Hardness	24.0	27.0	16.2	22.4	23.0	25.9	30.9
Microscopical Examination of deposit	none	none	none	none	mainly mineral matter	none	none
Bacteriological Examination							
Coliform organisms in 100 mls.	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent	absent
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 37°C	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml at 21°C	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The year saw the final completion of the Gamlingay parish sewerage scheme and indications are that full advantage is being taken of this amenity by the property owners.

Sewering of the Meldreth parish is almost completed and the sewage will be treated at the Melbourn disposal plant. An engineering inspector of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government held an investigation into the Council's application for the sewering of Litlington parish, together with the modification and use of the existing ex-forces sewage works, which already treat a quantity of sewage from the Council houses. It is hoped to commence this scheme in the very near future. At the time of reporting a tender of £289,355 0s. 0d. had been accepted for the sewering and sewage disposal in Sawston and Pampisford parishes and one looks to a start being made in 1961.

Following on with their list of sewerage priorities the Council have next in line the parishes of Bassingbourn, Kneesworth and Balsham.

In order to provide the Ministry with sufficient information to consider the Council's applications for loan sanction, the public health department submits a detailed report on the sanitary circumstances of each parish and such report necessitates a house to house survey.

The public health department has hitherto undertaken the testing and supervision of all new drainage work, other than that connected with Council houses, but owing to the very great increase in private development it became increasingly apparent that without additional staff, adequate supervision would not be possible and as this did not appear to be forthcoming Council were requested to permit the Architect's department to deal with all drainage work to new properties with the public health department retaining control over drainage to existing and improved properties. This was agreed to The records show that 638 inspections have been made in connexion with drainage work involving 252 water pressure tests applied to drains.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There is a need for a more frequent refuse collection than once a fortnight as at present. Whilst a fortnightly collection represents a considerable improvement over recent years, food shops, cafes, factory canteens and similar premises where hygiene is of prime importance look for a weekly collection, as also do newcomers into the rural district, but at the moment this has not been agreed to.

The refuse scheme has worked smoothly although as the various gravel and chalk pits become filled by the operations of controlled tipping, one visualises the day when incineration, with recovery of all metals, etc., will become economic, in a rural district.

Three modern type rear loading vehicles are employed on collection with an older side-loading vehicle as a standby. Simple maintenance and running repairs to the vehicles are undertaken by the Council's staff working under a foreman.

Collection and disposal statistics for year ending 31/3/61

Estimated number of clearances from properties	265,000
Number of loads	1,232
Estimated tonnage	5,086
Total mileage travelled	36,118

Litter Bins

The Litter Act 1958 made the unauthorised leaving of litter in any place in the open air to which the public have access, an offence. This highlighted the need for the provision of litter baskets in appropriate positions in the villages and some 40 baskets have been provided to date. However, a campaign to keep the villages free from litter relies mainly on enlisting the willing co-operation of the public.

Cesspool Emptying Service

The commencement of this service in 1955 filled a gap in the overall public cleansing service. Although employing only one 800 gallon capacity vehicle with a driver and operator, there is now an obvious need for a further vehicle.

This is emphasised by the degree of Council work given to private contractors, together with the delay in coping with requests for the service. The charge for private properties is 35/- per first load with subsequent loads at 15/-, and in the case of business premises £2 and £1 respectively.

There is little or no demand for the use of cesspool contents as an agricultural manure, and disposal is not always an easy matter if long hauls are to be avoided.

The following summarises the year's work:

Private Work		Council Work		Total
Cesspools	Loads	Cesspools	Loads	Mileage
504	625	347	834	13,641

Nightsoil Collection

Each year sees a reduction in the number of properties with earth or pail closets. The improvement to houses by the operations of Improvement Grant Schemes and the sewering of villages does much to obviate the need for this service. A nightsoil collection service is undertaken in part of one parish only. The original need resulted from an influx into the parish of war-time billetees.

PEST DESTRUCTION

If one can judge the degree of rat infestation throughout the rural district by the small number of com plaints received, then the district must be remarkably clear of rats. On the other hand the fact that there is no free rat destruction service afforded to householders in the district, is probably the reason for the small number of complaints.

A private rat catcher on contract to the Council keeps rat infestation on the refuse tips to a minimum, and attends to other rat infestations at Council's properties if requested. The sewage works, sewers and such like are periodically treated for infestation, by a Council employee.

Flies and other insects attracted to the refuse tips are efficiently dealt with by the vigorous routine application of insecticides.

The department has carried out disinfestations of various premises; two in respect of bed-bug infestations, two in respect of fleas, and a further two house-holders have been assisted in ridding their premises of cluster flies.

Control of Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning

Some 112 investigations in the control of infectious diseases and food poisoning have been recorded during the year. Scarlet fever accounted for the majority of investigations. Sporadic cases of food poisoning and dysentery occurred, but despite full investigation the sources were not ascertained. Fifty-four faecal specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Two new furnace installations have been approved under the Clean Air Act, and as is usual in such cases the National Fuel Efficiency Service was consulted. No complaints have been received of excessive smoke emissions excepting in relation to factories which are " scheduled processes " under the Alkali Works Etc. Regulation Act of which there are three in the rural district. Complaint of atmospheric pollution arising from these factories are referred to the Alkali Inspector. Due to pressure of other work no routine smoke observations have been undertaken.

EXAMINATION OF FOOD AND CONTROL OF FOOD PREMISES

Slaughter of Animals—Meat Inspection

This important aspect of public health work has not received the attention that one would wish, due to staffing difficulties, worsened by the fact that slaughtering also takes place during weekends. The percentage of carcases examined in relation to the total kill was further reduced to 71.0% from 93.0% in the previous year.

To consider this in perspective, the total number of animals slaughtered at the three privately owned slaughter-houses was 37,512, of these 11,000 carcases were not inspected. That the cost of an efficient meat inspection service borne by a local authority when a percentage of the carcases are for consumption outside the rural district is an uneconomic burden, is realised by the Ministry and a financial grant is made towards the cost of the service. It is estimated that 64.0% of the through-put of the three slaughter-houses is superfluous to the meat requirements of the population of the rural district.

The incidence of disease in animals shows a slight variation over the previous year's figures. Tuberculosis was found in less than 1% of cattle inspected; a slight reduction on the previous year's figure. Non-tubercular disease in pigs, however, showed a slight increase, mainly due to localised lung and liver infections. Cysticercus bovis infection in cattle was slightly decreased to 1.03%. Meat and offals rejected as being unfit amounted to 15 tons. This was disposed of in conformity with the new Meat Staining and Sterilisation Regulations. The Slaughter-houses Report was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in October and was subsequently approved.

The appointed day by which all slaughter-houses must conform with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations in the rural district is January 1st, 1963.

The occupiers of the three privately owned slaughter-houses have elected to build new premises and up to the present plans in respect of two have been approved. With the advent of new and improved slaughter-houses and cooling facilities, etc., up and down the country, it poses the question whether slaughtering at weekends is, in fact, a necessity from the consumer's point of view.

PARTICULARS OF CARCASES INSPECTED AT THE THREE PRIVATELY OWNED SLAUGHTERHOUSES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1960

(The figures in brackets are the annual figures for the year 1959)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1,164 (864)	82 (55)	137 (29)	4,911 (5,677)	31,218 (33,377)	— —
Number inspected 71.0%	972	71	115	3,720	21,776	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS & CYSTICERCI Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	3	25	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	191	11	—	39	2,161	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.7% (29.0%)	15.5% (29.0%)	— (6.9%)	1.2% (2.9%)	10.0% (7.5%)	— —
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	—	699	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.67% (0.69%)	— (3.6%)	— —	— —	3.2% (3.15%)	— —
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	10 (15)	1 (1)	— —	— —	— —	— —
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10 (15)	1 (1)	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
NUMBER OF ORGANS OR PARTS CONDEMNED—ALL DISEASES* Heads	9	—	—	—	690	—
Lungs (Sets)	5	1	—	4	1,632	—
Hearts	—	—	—	—	305	—
Livers (Whole or part)	182	9	—	29	590	—
Spleens	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diaphragms	5½	—	—	—	2	—
Kidney	—	—	—	—	34	—
Stomachs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mesenteries	2	—	—	—	3	—
Other parts	27 lbs	50 lbs.	—	7 lbs.	360 lbs.	—

*These figures do not include instances where whole carcases and all organs were condemned.

Milk Supply

The district Council's control of the licensing of designated milk was handed over to the County Council as the Food and Drug authority by reason of The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960 which came into force in October.

The Regulations also prescribed new tests for designated milk. The registration of non-producer dairies and of distributors still remains a matter for the local authority, as also does the supervision of handling and distribution of milk, Suspected or contaminated supplies may be stopped or directed for heat treatment, and it is for this reason that routine sampling direct from dairy herds, especially where milk is not going for pasteurisation, should be continued. Unfortunately the staff position has not permitted this to be done. It has been necessary to formally warn a firm of milk distributors for failing to secure the adequate cleansing of all bottles before filling. This further strengthens the opinion that the continued use of the returnable container, i.e., the glass milk bottle, is an anachronism and that a more suitable dispensable container should be found.

The following show the number of " dealers licences " and " supplementary licences " in force at the time of the transfer of powers to the County Council.

Dealers Licences:

Tuberculin Tested	10
Pasteurized	12
Sterilized	5

Supplementary Licences:

Tuberculin Tested	8
Pasteurized	6
Sterilized	5

As the district is a " specified area " only designated milks may be sold. Apart from supplies from a few T.T. producer retailers and an even smaller amount of sterilized milk, the supply in the district is mainly pasteurized. There are, however, no pasteurizing plants in the district. Retail dairies registered number 2 and registered distributors (non-producers) number 10.

Ice Cream

A further 10 premises were registered for the retail sale of ice-cream, making the number on register 124.

Two premises were refused registration, one on the grounds that the business carried on at the premises was unsuitable and not conducive to the proper handling of ice-cream; and the other due to failure to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Although records show only 3 visits have been made specifically to premises under the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, inspections are usually recorded under Food Premises. No sampling of ice-cream has been possible.

There are no manufacturers in the district.

Food Shops, Cafes, Factory Canteens and Food Conveying Vehicles

One of the basic fundamentals of environmental hygiene is that there should be a supply of wholesome and uncontaminated food. To attain this objective requires the co-operation of the manufacturer, the distributor and the consumer. It is the public health inspector's concern to administer the legislation governing this and to generally advise and educate. This, of course, necessitates the inspection of food premises and the supervision of food handlers. To give further guidance the

Ministry of Health and The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, have supplemented the existing Food Hygiene Codes of Practice by two more, covering the retail fish trade and the transport and handling of fish. The public health department sent copies to fish handlers in the district and recommended their implementation.

The records show that despite heavy demands on the staff, on other duties, 133 visits have been made to food premises and vehicles.

Works of improvement were required at 27 premises and the following summarises works completed by the year's end.

Structural Works	4
Wash basins and hot & cold water provided	5
Sinks installed	1
Working surfaces—tables etc., improved	3
Cupboards installed	1
Redecoration	3
Miscellaneous works	3

Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955

This section of the Act requires the special registration of premises used for the manufacture of preserved foods and for the storage and sale of ice-cream. The following are the premises registered in each category.

Storage and sale of ice-cream	124
Manufacture of sausages and other foods	15
Fish frying	3

As a prerequisite to registration premises are inspected and approved. Ten premises were registered for ice-cream and one for sausage manufacture.

Bakehouses

A total of 11 visits have been made to bakehouses, of which there are 14. They cater for local needs and are mainly family businesses. Improvements to three premises were required.

Licensed Premises

The hygienic standard of these premises has greatly improved in the post war years, and their numbers have been reduced. Thirty-five visits were paid to them and improvements secured to a number in respect of sanitary accommodation, glass washing and food preparation facilities and redecoration.

Food Inspection

The public health inspector's opinion has been sought as to the fitness or otherwise of a wide variety of foods ranging from a few tons of bananas to that of a roadside vending machine offering cracked eggs for sale. Samples of this latter product were submitted for bacteriological examination and found not to be contaminated. Few foods have been rejected as unfit for human consumption and these were mainly canned varieties.

SHOPS ACT 1950

The district Council's duties are confined to matters relating to heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation. These matters are usually attended to when inspecting premises under the Food and Drug Act since the majority of premises in the district come within the purview of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959

The routine inspection of factories has of necessity been restricted. The following table summarises the action taken during the year.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	9	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	3	2	—
TOTAL	101	12	5	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	5	5	—	1	—

Three certificates of adequacy of fire escape have been issued in respect of factories employing more than 20 persons. Factories having such certificates now number 23. The inspection of factories for adequacy of fire escape and subsequent issue of certificates passed from local authority control to that of the County Fire Authority at the year's end.

There remain in force 14 Certificates in respect of wholesomeness of private water supplies to factories.

Lists of outworkers received from factory occupiers, shows that 42 persons are engaged in home-work in connexion with the making, etc., of wearing apparel. No contraventions of the Act relative thereto have been found.

Offensive Trades

From time to time complaints have been received of offensive odours arising from factories dealing with the conversion of fats, bones, and blood, etc., into animal feedingstuffs and fertilizers. To establish better control over this type of plant the Council sought urban powers and the Minister has agreed that Sections 107-108 Public Health Act 1936 shall apply in certain parishes. At the time of writing this report, offensive trade byelaws have been made and are awaiting Ministry confirmation.

These plants are subject to licence by the County Council under the Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order 1957, which requires *inter alia* the boiling of waste foods for feeding to animals. There are seven licensed plants in the district.

There are no licensed knackers yards.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1958

Fifteen slaughtermen hold licences to slaughter animals other than horses. One young licensee was restricted for a period of six months to slaughter under the supervision of a fully licensed slaughterman.

No contraventions of the Act have been noted.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There are no licences in force permitting the sale of pet animals.

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Inspection of installations under the Act & Regulations numbered 28 and these included in the main the testing of new installations.

One new petroleum can store has been constructed at the department's request. The department has now taken over the re-licensing of existing installations of which there are 153 and it is intended to apply the " model code " to them which requires the periodic testing of tanks.